



# FAITHFUL TIMES

## FPC October 2008 Newsletter



### Chris' Column

by Rev. Chris Curtis



## Called to Be a Blessing

A few weeks ago, I spoke to the congregation before morning worship about something I've been thinking through. I shared some ideas and asked for ideas from you about ministering in our community. I want to take this time to ask you again to think on these things with me, and share the ideas you have. Let me share a reason we need to think about these things.

The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' (Gen 12:1-3)

We know that ultimately, the LORD blessed all peoples on the earth through Abraham in the person and work of Jesus Christ—the ultimate blessing to the nations. The chief blessing is the Gospel being spread throughout the world. But wherever the Gospel spread, it had cultural implications. Christians for centuries have lived out the faith in very concrete and tangible ways in their communities. One pastor says 'Our theology should come out of our fingertips.' For instance, in the Roman Empire, it was socially acceptable to abandon unwanted babies. The early Christians took them in. The mercy Christ had shown them spilled over onto the surrounding culture. No doubt many Christians have taken Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan to heart and served their neighbors (and even their enemies).

I have been reading a book called *Small, Strong Congregations*, which has been very interesting and helpful. In it, the author says that small, strong congregations share 'one excellent mission.' This is something alongside their 'regular church stuff' like Bible studies and worship services. When Callahan is consulted with churches, he encourages them to 'find one excellent mission that matches their gifts and their community, and then live that mission out in a legendary way that serves the people of their community...small, strong congregations share one excellent mission as their gift with the whole community. They live a theology of service, not a theology of survival.' (pgs 34, 38)

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One church discovered their mission with regard to the community was to approach elected civic leaders and pray for them, holding a meal for them. Another church discovered that they had a passion for pre-school and after-school programs for children. The possibilities are numerous.

Say you meet someone who has lived on the Northshore for a while, and they ask you where you go to church. You say, 'Faith Presbyterian over on highway 1085.' They say, 'Oh, yeah, you're the church that \_\_\_\_\_.'

Have you ever heard these statements? How have people filled the blank? I want you to do a bit of day-dreaming and praying about the kinds of things that people might fill that blank with. Think about some of the things you DON'T want people to fill that blank with.

To be continued....

Chris

## SESSION UPDATE

The session of FPC met on the evening of September 11<sup>th</sup>. After praying for congregational concerns and hearing reports, the session took action on the following items:

- Noted that October 18th has been set as a church-wide work day
- Agreed to have Rev Jim Gorski from Three Rivers PCA to fill the pulpit on September 21st
- Decided that officer elections will be held in early December, with RE Slaton replacing RE Beck on the Nominating Committee. Selection of the Nominating Committee for 2009 will be held in the early months of 2009.
- Considered a request by Stuart Miller (missionary to South America) to speak at FPC on a future date, requesting more information.

**NO GOD, NO PEACE  
KNOW GOD, KNOW PEACE**



On Saturday, October 18th at 9 A.M. show up to help spruce up our grounds for the world to see—well those who pass by on Hwy 1085 anyway. We will do some weeding and attend to other matters that need attention. A light lunch will be served to all helpers around noon.



## HURRICANE INFORMATION

During hurricane season, if a hurricane enters the Gulf, you can call the church office at 875-1212 for information regarding Worship Service. If the regular message plays, Worship Service will be held. If the service is cancelled, a special recording will let you know.

With any type of Parish evacuation (mandatory or voluntary) Worship Service will be cancelled!



**FPC's Church Wide  
Harvest Festival  
& FISH FRY**

**Sunday, November 2nd**  
Immediately following Worship

If your last name begins with the letters

- A—F** - bring a dessert (enough to share)  
**G - Z** - bring a side dish or salad (enough to share)

Come and enjoy  
**FOOD, FUN, AND SURPRISES**  
with your brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Take this opportunity to invite a friend to church and  
to share in what promises to be a wonderful day!

Chef Matt  
Edmundson  
will cook  
again!

## Children's Ministry

by Pam Greenbaum

Sunday October 5th our kids will sing during service. During the past year they have focused part of their Sunday School on the Ten Commandments and Children's Church was based on the Fruits of the Spirit. The two songs they are learning reinforce their learning. Their rehearsals during Children's Church have been precious. I hope our Church family will enjoy their performance and that it will glorify our Lord!

K.L.I.C.ers met in September to make bookmarks to send to our college kids, military folks, young adults and other special friends. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving one of their creations, please let me know.

On October 19th the K.L.I.C.ers meet after service for a 'top secret' project and Pizza.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and children, Sunday School, Children's Church and Nursery are off to a great start for 2008-2009!

\*\*\*\*\* See You In Sunday School \*\*\*\*\*



## Men's Ministry

The men will have their usual monthly breakfast on October 12th at 7:45 A.M.

Pastor Chris has been leading a second study for the men on Tuesday at noon. After the study they head out to a nearby restaurant for a Dutch Treat lunch. This present study should be ending on October 21st. It is not too late to join in.



## FPC Financial Update



Estimated Needed Monthly Budget*	Collected in:	Over/Under
	<u>January</u>	
General: \$13,000	17,428	+4,420
Building: \$ 4,700	2,585	-2,115
	<u>February</u>	
General: \$13,000	10,249	-2,751
Bldg: \$ 4,700	4,755	+ 55
	<u>March</u>	
General: \$13,000	19,109	+6,109
Bldg. \$ 4,700	6,378	+1,678
	<u>April</u>	
General: \$13,000	9,052	-3,948
Bldg: \$ 4,700	2,206	+2,494
	<u>May</u>	
General: \$13,000	8,696	-4,304
Bldg: \$ 4,700	4,194	- 506
	<u>June</u>	
General: \$13,000	16,145	+3,145
Bldg: \$4,700	3,566	-1,134
	<u>July</u>	
General: \$13,000	9,131	-3,869
Bldg: \$4,700	1,959	-2,741
	<u>August</u>	
General: \$13,000	9,860	-3,139
Bldg: \$ 4,700	2,319	-2,381
	<u>September</u>	
General: \$13,000	12,894.	- 106
Bldg. \$ 4,700	12,636	+7,936

\*Current needs without provisions for new pastor.

Administration Committee meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at 6 P.M. and are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Your committee is made up with Harvey Marsolan, Chair, Patty Frutiger, Gary Schoen and Larry Terrell.

## Women's Ministry

So much to report—so let's get started!!



Our Annual **Fall Gathering** will take place on Tuesday, **October 7th** at the lovely home of Jane Hoogerwerf. It begins at **11 A.M.** when your new council will be introduced and highlights of the women's upcoming year will be showcased. We will then be served a delicious lunch and mingle with old and new friends. A special **THANK YOU** to our hostess Jane for opening her home to us.

The **Wednesday Bible Study** continues each week at **10 A.M.** Daisy Beck leads and would love for everyone to participate. Call her if you are interested in joining in.

**Faith Circle** will meet on **October 14th** at **1:30 P.M.** for the start of a new Bible Study. The Study will be on Elizabeth George's "A Woman's Call to Prayer". The books cost \$11 each. Mary Edmundson will be this month's hostess and will be in charge of the dessert. The Circle meets once a month on the second Tuesday of each month for a Bible study, a short meeting and a dessert with coffee. To join in, talk with Mary.

How blessed we are to have a **third Bible Study** being offered to our women. Pam Greenbaum will lead a new Tuesday evening **Beth Moore study** beginning **mid October**. This 12 week study will break sometime in November and give everyone a chance to take care of the "busy" Thanksgiving and Christmas season, then start up and continue after the new year. If interested in the same study on Tuesday mornings, talk with Nikki who will lead if there is enough interest. Sign-up sheets can be found in the Narthex and times and more details will be in upcoming Sunday bulletin announcements.

**Double Nickels** will meet on Monday, **October 27th at noon** for lunch and Bingo with, as usual, some good and some not so good prizes. It's always a fun time and all **men and women**, 55 years and older, are invited. It is a great opportunity to invite a friend along too.

The women will begin collecting foods again in mid October for **Thanksgiving Baskets**. Faye Feddeck will provide us with needy families in our community. Non-perishables will be collected on the pew in the narthex and checks with "Thanksgiving Basket" in the memo will be used to insure help at this time of year.

The Women's Ministry is also preparing for our first of several **Sunday Breakfasts**. On **November 16th** the women will be treated to a breakfast at **8 A.M.** before Sunday School begins. Also in the works is the annual **decorating** of the church for Christmas. The **Angel Tree** will be up again waiting for your usual generous spirits to help needy families at this time of year. We will also host a **Church-Wide Christmas party** on **December 7th**.

### Heart-to-Heart: A word from Pam Greenbaum

At the Fall Gathering Heart to Heart 2008 will be introduced. Heart to Heart is a ministry where older women are matched with younger women in light of Titus 2:3-5 "*Likewise teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.*"

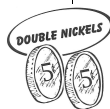
Now all that may sound too tall an order but we all know that teaching and good example works best when a relationship is formed. I have been in Heart-to-Heart relationships with Linda Held, Jeannie Schoen and Flora Neff. During that time there were many lunches consumed, lots of giggles, shared rooms at retreats, lots of prayers, and a few good "heart to heart" talks with sisters who love the Lord and were willing to share their lives to get to know me. I have been so blessed by deepening my relationships with them.

I think the best Heart-to-Heart situations are with ladies who are really stretching themselves by joining. Take on a small service project together like helping with Thanksgiving Baskets, the Giving Tree or church clean up. On the surface maybe only a few lunches are shared or a commitment to pray for each other is promised but there will always be growth if we are committed to our Lord.

If you think that you can glorify our Lord, even in a small way, by getting to know another sister in Christ, then please pray about becoming part of Heart-to-Heart. H-t-H ladies will be invited to a special luncheon to celebrate their relationships in February.

Ladies, if you are interested in supplying **flowers** for the sanctuary on a particular Sunday during the 2008-2009 year, please call the church office and let Susie save the date for you.

Your Council has worked so hard to offer the women at Faith many wonderful and unique opportunities to share their particular talents for the glory of God. Come out to meet your new Council on October 7th. Be a participant and we promise you will get more than you give! **See you on the 7th!**



# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir	2	3 YOUTH Twin Lakes	4 RETREAT Jackson, MS
5 Kids Sing in Worship Service	6	7 11a Fall Gathering At J. Hoogerwerf's Home 12p Men's Bible St.	8 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir	9	10	11
12 7:45a Men's Breakfast	13 6p Administration Meeting	14 12p Men's Bible St. 1:30p Circle 7p Session Beth Moore study	15 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir	16	17	18 9a Work Day 12p lunch
19 K.L.I.Cers	20	21 12p Men's Bible Study Beth Moore study	22 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir	23	24 PRESBYTERY Westminster in Laurel	25 at Presbyterian Ch. MS
26 Communion	27 12p Double Nickels	28 7p Gospel Jam Beth Moore study	29 10a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Choir	30	31	

**October  
Happy Birthday!**

Menette Burns	2
Renee Marsolan	3
Heidi Burns	4
Candy Foster	6
Jamie Annessa	7
Carlie Annessa	10
Peggy Miestchovich	12
Claire Burns	15
Don Frutiger	22
Anna Kathryn Slaton	28

Happy Anniversary  
Melissa & Mike Taylor 1

FPC celebrates 4 years in our new home! Praise God!!!

**FPC Contact Info**  
**Telephone:** 985-875-1212  
**Fax:** 985-875-1213  
**Church/Office Street Address**  
 16330 Hwy 1085  
 Covington, Louisiana 70433

**Church Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**9 am—4 pm**

E-Mail:  
 Susie.lange@faithpreschurch.org  
 Chris.curtis@faithpreschurch.org  
 Pam.greenbaum@faithpreschurch.org

**Sunday Times:**  
**Sunday School: 9:00am**  
**Fellowship: 10:00am**  
**Worship: 10:30am**  
**Supper: 5:30pm**  
**Praise & Prayer: 6:00pm**

**Deadlines**

Bulletin announcements need to be in the office by **noon on the Wednesday before the Sunday they are to appear.**

Newsletter items need to be in the office by the **third Thursday of each month.**



